

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES**

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2001

Alaska Building, 13th Floor

Seattle, WA 98104

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Present: Meryl Abramson, Marc Avni, Pat Carroll, Cleo Corcoran, Gabe Cohen, Timmie Faghin Lee Gaylor, Suzanne Gehring, Randy Hayhurst, Miriam Horrigan, Murray Meld, Will Parry, Cecil Pollard, Gladys Romero, Mae Shields, Cherie Sigrist, Karen Sluiter, Helen Spencer, Greg Stack, Leo Ward, Fred Yee

Absent: Juanita Grant, Peter Steinbrueck

Excused: Martha Becker, Thelma Coney, Suzanne Wiley

STAFF: Karen Brewer, Margaret Casey, Rosemary Cunningham, Peggy O'Brien-Murphy, Suzanne Simmons, Linda Wells, Karen Winston, Linda Woodall

Action Summary

Nominating Committee for 2002 Officers was established as follows:

City of Seattle: **Gladys Romero**, King County: **Cecil Pollard**, United Way: **Fred Yee**

This committee will present a slate of candidates for officers at the August Advisory Council meeting.

Call State Representatives ASAP requesting restoration of the Senate \$4M cut to Medicaid Case Management services for elders and adults with disabilities.

Minutes

Murray Meld, Chair convened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. March Minutes were approved as mailed.

Murray welcomed new AC members **Pat Carroll**, **Thelma Coney**, **Cleo Corcoran**, **Randy Hayhurst** and **Gladys Romero** who were officially confirmed as our new Advisory Council Members on April 2 by the City Council. **Greg Stack** and City Councilmember **Peter Steinbrueck** had their appointments to the Advisory Council re-confirmed on April 2, 2001.

Murray gave a brief description of the AC Orientation training that took place yesterday. **Peggy** will have the new Orientation Books available for all members at the May meeting. Members were requested to turn in their old books at that time. There will be more training at a later date.

Program

Rosemary Cunningham led a discussion on how ADS allocates funds for services. She described what the allocation process is, what proportion of funding goes to which kind of service areas, and distribution of clients across the county. Funding is directed to four areas: Health Promotion (healthy aging), Housing, Long Term Care (LTC), & Unpaid Caregiving Support.

There is very little maneuver room with non-discretionary funds because of the layers of rules that overlap and make it a difficult and complicated system. While non-discretionary funding is based on client eligibility rules, the discretionary funds are reviewed by the AC Planning & Allocation Committee and recommendations are made by the Committee to the full AC, which in turn makes recommendations to the Sponsors. Public comment is received in writing or at public hearings held by the Advisory Council in late summer.

Health has the larger amount of discretionary funding, enabling the Health Care Task Force to put more focus on Nutrition, Information/Assistance, LTC, COPEs, Medicaid, and offers the opportunity to do advocacy and education around these areas. Because housing has very little discretionary funding available, the Housing Task Force focuses on larger systems issues.

Using the Older Americans Act, as an example, Rosemary explained that Title III Part B had a lot of discretion but Part C must be used for nutrition & congregate and home delivery Nutrition Services. There are huge funding disparities on what we can do for older clients and what we can do for younger clients with disabilities due to the limited discretionary funding available for people under 60 with disabilities. Rosemary reviewed the various service areas, i.e. case management, Information & Assistance (I&A), Adult Day Services, Amy Wong Client Fund, etc. When asked about costs for administrative overhead, Pam said that \$20 M of LTC dollars of direct service, which go to home care needs, represents half of all the care that is coordinated out of the case management program. We have another \$25M for care that is paid directly by the State for our clients to hire their caregivers (Independent Providers). Although we coordinate and do paper work for contracting that care, the wages for independent providers do not go through ADS. It is paid directly to the client by the State.

ADS coordinates quite a large volume of funding and services within the county: Housing receives \$65,000 for homesharing, LTC receives approximately \$22,000,000, Unpaid Caregiving Support is a growing area and receives approximately \$1,015,00. Our provider agencies also receive approximately \$60,000 - 80,000 yearly for technology needs (upgrading, training, systems development, equipment). Service providers apply for these discretionary funds through an RFP (Request for Proposals) process every four years. In-Home Personal Care & Chore must complete an RFQ (Request for Qualifications). This amounts to a hefty volume of work because ADS is required to work with anyone who applies through an RFQ. The RFP process, however, is a competitive one. Guidelines from the OAA are followed for this process. A committee comprised of representatives from the community, AC representatives, and ADS, review and decide which applications are most competitive.

The next area discussed was the ADS Service Area funding timeline. February brings initial revenue projections from the state. During March, April & May, the P&A Committee meets with the contract staff for a description of service area overviews of trends, number of people being served, and emerging issues. In April the providers respond to a survey to describe any gaps or problems that they see. In May, Sponsors give priority guidelines for making recommendations. During June the P&A Committee proposes two-year allocation recommendations. In July the full Advisory Council & Sponsors review the P&A recommendations. In August the AC hold public hearings during the day throughout the County. And finally, in September the public hearing and any written comments go back to the P&A Committee, then to the AC and finally to the Sponsors. After completing this process, the allocations are decided, then the contract specialists take the decisions and go into contract negotiations.

Director's Report:

Pam Piering thanked the Council for their strong turnout two days in a row! (Yesterday orientation training and today Council meeting).

Pam serves on the board of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) and told of her recent trip to their offices in DC. The N4A has 600 AAA's throughout the nation, grouped by regions. Pam also met with N4A Director Janice Jackson and shared a NY Times article describing the N4A Director as one of nine most influential policy people on aging issues in the United States. The N4A will hold their fall advocacy-training forum in Seattle on September 14, 2001 and Outreach & Advocacy Committee will help organize the forum. Some areas of focus for this Forum are prescription drugs, legislative funding priorities, Long Term Care Design and grassroots messages. During her visit in DC, Pam also visited Senators Murray & Cantwell offices and was able to talk with their staff about ADS the OAA & prescription drug legislation. She said serious concern about the Bush \$1.6 trillion tax cut (10 years worth of revenue) leaves us wondering what will be left for Social Security & Medicare? And questions like how will we fund prescription drugs legislation? Pam briefly mentioned the State budget. The Senate has restored some of the Governor's cuts – Adult Day Health and the CHORE cuts were capped, dental & vision was restored. A \$0.50 increase in worker wages (one of our Legislative Forum priorities) was also instituted in the budget. The bad news is a statewide cut of \$4M that will heavily impact all of case management – increasing our case managers' caseloads from 85:1 to 92:1

Linda Woodall United Way (UW) announced the institution of a new I&A access number - 211. This 3-digit, easy to remember number, will allow anyone to call anywhere in the state in case of need/emergency. The service is not designed to replace any service providers. Some states have already successfully implemented the 211 program and I&A staff have reported a 40% increase in their calls. UW is hosting discussion sessions for anyone in the community, providers, agencies, government agencies to discuss existing models in other states: what works, problems, and what's the next step to implement a 211 system in our community

Nominating Committee: AC members from each of the sponsors volunteered to serve and the AC members present verbally agreed to their selection. In August the nominating committee will give their report of a recommended slate of officers to be voted on at the Advisory Council Annual Meeting in November. **Cecil Pollard** shepherded through a quick and efficient vote for the selection of a nominating committee.

Committee Reports

Health Task Force –**Karen Sluiter** reported on the April joint meeting of the Health Care Task Force and the Outreach & Advocacy Committee on the Energy Crisis. The meeting included representatives from Seattle City Light (SCL), Project Share, MOSC, King Co Community Services. The focus was to highlight critical energy issues and discuss ways of disseminating information. The general public needs to know that there is energy assistance funding available for homeowners, renters, landlords as well as people who already may be getting assistance from other programs on a local, state or federal level. Karen suggested that anyone needing information on what help is available call MOSC, I&A or SCL at 206/684-0268. She stressed that there is a lot of help available

and far too many people are unaware of it. This assistance is not exclusive to only electric bills. No action decisions came out of the joint meeting. At the federal level, Karen urged that we hold off supporting SB420. She said that until we see the full Senate Bill we have no idea what riders may have been put on it. The AC agreed to a review before endorsement.

Outreach and Advocacy: **Gabe Cohen** reported that the Committee agreed it is important that energy assistance information gets out to as many people as possible, and that the 206/684-0268 should be made into a toll free access phone number. He added that if Federal SB 420 is successful, it would increase the income eligibility from 125% of poverty to 200% of poverty, making it easier to qualify for assistance programs. This means eligibility for a family of one at a monthly income \$2,941, or a family of four at a monthly income of \$4,431. Once we get a review on SB420 Gabe suggested it be circulated to the AC so individuals can contact the US Senators if they wish to support it. The Council decided to have staff review the bill, check the status and make a recommendation to the Councilmembers. **Linda Wells** will follow up on this. **Fred Yee** suggested anyone could go to Thomas (<http://Thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.html>) on the WEB for a review of any bill. Pam will check to see if N4A has taken any position on the bill. If they are supporting it staff will get that information out to the AC. Gabe asked the staff to look at this ASAP so AC can make contact with Senators Murray & Cantwell.

Regarding the \$4M cut – Outreach & Advocacy is urging all AC members to make calls to the State House of Representatives today. Gabe passed out a sheet with suggested wording when making the phone calls about restoring \$4M to the budget.

Gabe said a top priority of retreat follow-up is to put more focus on the Disability component of our mission by increasing community awareness of agencies serving people with disabilities and determining gaps that might exist in these services. This is a work in progress that the O&A Committee will continue working on. Gabe also mentioned the N4A action workshop scheduled for Sept 14. The focus will be on all kinds of advocacy that will have impacts on the elderly and people with disabilities. (The N4A workshop will take the place of the September AC monthly meeting.) Gabe also mentioned that the 211 system would be of great help for people who need access to information without having to make toll calls.

Housing Task Force: **Meryl Abramson** reported that the UD forum has been rescheduled to Thurs, May 10, City Council Chambers in the Municipal Building – and asked members to get the word out.

Planning and Allocations Committee: **Miriam Horrigan**

In response to a question raised regarding the role of AC members on recommended allocation expenditures, the P&A Committee asked staff to put together a presentation of the planning & allocation process. (Presentation was given by Rosemary at the beginning of this meeting). Miriam then explained the roles of the P&A Committee and the role of the AC in allocations. Although the full AC ultimately has responsibility for all the Task Force and Committees decisions, the AC, as a whole, does not have the time required to listen in detail to requests from different agencies and make allocation decisions. This long and involved process is handled by the 6 member P&A Committee (made up of 2 members from each sponsor). Last year this committee held 10 meetings of 2 – 2.5 hours each, listening to reports, proposals and all information necessary to arrive at a recommendation. The P&A Committee, follows a set of guidelines from the Sponsors, brings their recommendation to the full AC, which in turn makes recommendations to the Sponsors. Miriam

pointed out that these recommendations are in service areas rather than to specific agencies. The contract staff then negotiate final contracts with service providers for the money to specific programs. After AC approval, the recommendations go to the Sponsors, who may or may not make changes to the recommendations. **Karen Sluiter** suggested it might be helpful for the AC to see the guidelines under which the committee works. They will be made available in the orientation workbooks. Miriam ended by saying that, although very time consuming, the P&A Committee is a very rewarding and interesting committee to work on.

Murray thanked the committee for their dedication and all the work they have done. Pam shared that there is always a positive response of appreciation from the recipients for all the work put into funding decisions. Murray also mentioned that if AC members want more input to the recommendations they can always participate in the public hearings.

Retreat Follow-Up

Mission Statement – **Cleo Corcoran** read the 2 proposed mission statement (both were in the March minutes) and said that they were not ready to make a recommendation and would like more time to come back with 1 draft. The intention is to keep the statement a short so it can easily fit into a brochure or publication.

Announcements: **Karen Brewer** announced the Tech Forum on April 19 and encouraged AC to let others - agencies and non-profits - know about this opportunity to learn about technology assistance. The Forum is to help non profits set up, develop funding, and, “not only survive, but thrive”. Many of ADS provider agencies will be taking part in the forum. Cost is \$65, and tuition assistance is available.

Helen Spencer announced that the multi-services center has money for energy assistance until July. Currently the eligibility income level is \$870 for one and \$1100 for two. Any other assistance already received will not negate an application.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:00 PM

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: May 11, 2001, Noon–2:00 PM
Alaska Building, 13th Fl. Conference Room
618 Second Ave.
Seattle, WA 98104

Meryl Abramson, Secretary-Treasurer
